

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 12-28 will be all the claims pending in this application. The new claims presented herein, and in particular, independent claims 12, 14, 16 and 23, variously incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 6, which were objected to only as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Support for all the new claims can thus be found in the original claims, as filed, and in the portions of the present specification relevant thereto.

Entry is respectfully requested.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (U.S. Patent 4,006,106); and claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al.

Further, claims 4 and 6 were objected to only as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. That is, the Examiner identified Yoshida as being the closest prior art, and discloses on col. 4, lines 22-25 that the alloy must not exceed 30 wt%. Hence, the Examiner concedes that Yoshida does not disclose the limitations of claims 4 or 6.

In response, claims 1-4 and 6-11 have been canceled, and Applicants present new claims 12-28 for the Examiner's consideration.

Specifically, new independent claims 12, 14, 16 and 23, from which all remaining claims depend, variously incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 6. In particular, Claim 12 is a combination of canceled claims 1 and 4; claim 14 is a combination of canceled claims 1 and 6; claim 16 is a combination of canceled claims 3 and 4; and claim 23 is a combination of canceled claims 3 and 6. Hence, this application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

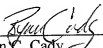
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